



The Center on  
Conscience & War

# The Reporter for Conscience' Sake

Volume 68

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Number 1

## “Celebrate Our Journey, Chart Our Future”



Above: CCW current staff and volunteers, from left: Jake Short, Nico Holz, David Thompson, Ben Teets, Dan O'Connor, Bill Galvin, J.E. McNeil, and Maria Santelli. Top left: H. Blair Smith, a leader in the Christadelphian church, and McNeil. Middle left: McNeil receives an Episcopal Peace Fellowship “Peace is the Church’s business” coffee mug from CCW Board Chair Dallas Wisehaupt. Bottom left: Members of “Artists Against War-DC,” along with CCW Board Vice Chair Taj Johnson (right), play for guests at the celebration. *Photos by Russell Ricks and Bill Galvin.*

### Fundraiser Honors J.E. McNeil’s Work and Welcomes Incoming Executive Director

Jake Short, Brethren Volunteer

The D.C. skyline provided a wonderful backdrop to the celebration on May 14 that honored J.E. McNeil and welcomed Maria Santelli to the Center.

Around 50 people were in attendance at the party that recognized the nearly 12 years of work outgoing executive director McNeil has done for the Center. Those in attendance included current staff and volunteers, members of the board of directors, former staff and board members, COs, friends and family of

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*Founded in 1940, the Center on Conscience & War works to extend and defend the rights of conscientious objectors to war. In pursuit of this calling, the Center provides these services free of charge:*

- Counsel military conscientious objectors.
- Provide legal support for military personnel.
- Lobby Congress to extend and defend the rights of conscientious objectors.
- Provide accurate information to the public on Selective Service registration.
- Provide support to COs who refuse to register for the draft through F.E.A.T student loans.
- Counsel soldiers on the GI Rights Hotline with accuracy and honesty.
- Military counter-recruitment information
- Provide workshops, training, and speakers on any of the above topics.

# News Briefs

## Egypt

As reported in the Winter 2010 issue, Egyptian conscientious objector Maikel Nabil Sanad has faced prison time for refusing to report to military service back in Oct. 2010.

Now a military court on April 10, 2011 sentenced civilian Maikel to three years in prison on charges of “insulting the military.” He was arrested at his home on March 28 and detained pending an investigation, with the trial starting on March 31.

Supreme Council of Armed Forces member Mamdouh Shahin said on Egyptian satellite channel *ONTV* that while freedom of speech should be guaranteed, current laws criminalize words and actions directed at the military’s safety. Shahin also said Maikel has a right to appeal the military court’s decision.

Maikel Nabil Sanad is a political activist and blogger, founding the “No to Compulsory Military Service Movement” in April 2009. As a pacifist, he declared his conscientious objection, and demanded exemption from military service before being arrested for the first time in Nov. 2010. Egypt does not recognize the right to conscientious objection.

*War Resisters’ League*

## Switzerland

After Switzerland streamlined the application process for conscientious objectors and removed the examination of the sincerity in September 2009, it was found that the number of applications significantly increased from 1,948 in 2008 to 7,213 in 2009; there were 7,392 applications in 2010.

Now some politicians are calling for longer alternative service terms and other measures to cut down on the number of COs.

On December 10, 2010, the Swiss parliament passed the following amendments on alternative service:

- It was possible to download the CO application form from the Internet. Now the form has to be requested.
- The applicant will need to confirm in writing after four weeks if he still wants to pursue his application, otherwise it will be void.
- Alternative service can now only be served in up to two areas of service.
- Compensation for COs in alternative service for food, housing, transport, etc. is reduced by almost 50%.

According to the group *Verein Zivildienst*, which supports conscientious objectors, some of the new regulations violate other regulations and human rights standards.

*War Resisters’ League*

## Paraguay

On March 29, 2011, Paraguay passed a decree to form a National Council on Conscientious Objection to Military Service. Under a law passed last year, the Council is responsible for approving conscientious objector applications.

The law passed last year now requires alternative service for COs in addition to an application process. Previously COs only needed a simple declaration of their beliefs to be exempt from military service.

*Última Hora*, a daily newspaper, reported on Feb. 4, 2011 that many youth do not know how to apply for CO status since the new law came into effect. According to the human rights ombudsman (also chair of the National Council), temporary recognitions would be issued in the meantime.

*War Resisters’ League*

## South Korea

Baek Jong-keon, a lawyer and Jehovah’s Witness, has filed a petition in court against the Military Service Law, arguing the law violates freedom of conscience and religion in the constitution.

The law allows for the imprisonment of COs and conscription resisters for up to three years.

Baek is also arguing it is unconstitutional to ban those who pass the national bar exam from becoming a judge, prosecutor, or lawyer for five years because they refuse to go through a four-week military training program.

The petition was filed May 9 in a Seoul court with a ruling set for June 2. If his petition is rejected, Baek plans to appeal to higher courts.

“I am willing to exercise all my legal rights guaranteed under the Constitution to let people know that conscientious objectors suffer from a great deal of pain,” he said.

About 16,000 Korean men refusing to serve in the military for either their religious beliefs or no apparent reasons have been imprisoned. The Constitutional and Supreme Courts ruled in 2004 that the conscription law is constitutional. In 2007 the Ministry of National Defense explored the possibility of an alternative service program, but quit the work after unfavorable public sentiment.

<http://www.koreatimes.co.kr>

## Maria Santelli is New Executive Director

Maria Santelli, Incoming Executive Director

The opportunity to be the next executive director at this historic and essential organization is exciting to me for more than one reason: it enables me to return to my native east coast (I've been living in New Mexico since college), and to put my skills and passion to the highest use.



I don't enter into this position naïvely. As a GI Rights Hotline counselor, I have seen J.E. in action and I know I have a hard act to follow. I enthusiastically accept the challenge.

Raised by the children of immigrants, I was given a strong foundation in Catholic social justice teachings. My early work in social justice was focused on nuclear disarmament—a particularly important issue in New Mexico. In recent years, I have been drawn to work in support of our service members—particularly those who have chosen to follow their conscience and leave the military—as part of building a more peaceful and just world. In 2008, I founded the New Mexico GI Rights Hotline to provide direct services and resources to callers and be a leading voice statewide on issues affecting service members and veterans, including conscientious objection, military sexual violence, post-traumatic stress disorder, and truth in recruitment.

It is not easy to leave my home in New Mexico. This is a remarkable community in so many ways. They changed me from a wide-eyed, idealistic student into a grounded, strategic-thinking adult and the fierce advocate for justice I am today. I am forever grateful to them for preparing me for this new adventure and to all of you for opening the door.



## Spring Intern at CCW

Kendall Young, American University Intern

Kendall Young is currently studying International Relations and Peace and Conflict Resolution at American University. As a spring semester intern, she helped in the process of editing the newest upcoming edition of *Words of Conscience*. In addition, she conducted various other types of research for the Center. She is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church.

## Vietnam Era CO Volunteers as New FEAT Administrator

David Thompson, FEAT Administrator

David Thompson comes to the Center as a volunteer after 35 years of operating his own commercial millwork business. He is a graduate of Hampden Sydney College, and was granted conscientious objection classification in 1970.

He is currently assuming many of the duties from departed volunteer Rebecca Rawls, and recently completed a revision of the fact checking booklets for counter recruitment.

David lives with his wife in Alexandria, Virginia. They have four grown children, two grandchildren, a dog, and a cat.

David is retired, enjoys playing golf, and keeps two active beehives in his yard.



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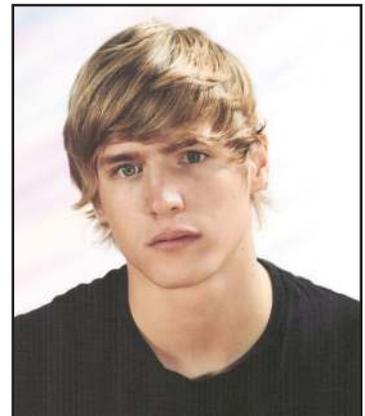
## German BVSer Joins Staff

Nico Holz, Brethren Volunteer

Nico Holz is currently serving at the Center with the German organization *EIRENE Internationaler Christlicher Friedensdienst* through Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS).

He is helping update literature and brochures and is partially responsible to do fundraising for CCW.

He is a member of the Lutheran Church, Germany. He comes from Hamburg, having graduated from the Heinrich-Hertz-Schule in summer 2010, and plans to start studying policy in summer 2012.



# International CO Day

## Event Celebrates 70th Anniversary of First CPS Camp



Above left: Titus Peachey of Mennonite Central Committee points out the statement about the CPS camp on the placard at the site. Above right: Many of the attendees, including incoming director Maria Santelli (center) and director emeritus L. William Yolton (far right), in front of the picnic shelter that contains an original camp fireplace. Right: Carl Andreas, explains about his time in CPS. Far right: Rosalind Andreas tells the story of how the CPS website came into existence. *Photos by Bill Galvin and Jake Short*

Bill Galvin, Counseling Coordinator

Every year the Center commemorates International CO Day, usually with a gathering of our “Advisory Committee” for some kind of educational event on May 15. This year’s event commemorated the first time conscientious objectors performed alternative service in lieu of military service.

The first Civilian Public Service (CPS) camp to open was in Patapsco Valley State Park near Baltimore, Maryland on May 15, 1941. This year’s International CO Day marked the 70th anniversary of the opening of this CPS camp, and it was decided to celebrate with a picnic.

The Center was integrally involved with COs in CPS camps since its inception in 1940, and for many years also facilitated the publication of a CPS directory, keeping track of those COs from WWII and where they served at the time. The directory was revised several times, with the most recent publication in 1996.

Several years ago, a major project to turn the directory into an interactive website began (<http://civilianpublicservice.org>), and as the website was nearing a launch date, those involved decided to unveil it officially at this 70th anniversary event.

About 50 people gathered for a picnic lunch, presentations about CPS and the webpage, and a visit to the site of the first CPS camp on its anniversary. While there is not a lot left of the camp other than some foundations and some sidewalks that seem to lead nowhere, a fireplace from one of the buildings remains in use as part of a picnic pavilion. The historic placard at the site mostly



talks about the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp, but the conscientious objectors are mentioned.

There have been conscientious objectors as long as there have been wars. And for the government leaders who want to carry out wars, they have been viewed as a problem. In these times when many countries have laws protecting the rights of conscientious objectors, and it is one of the rights covered in the UN Declaration of Human Rights, it is worth reflecting upon how far we have come.

During World War I, the treatment of conscientious objectors who refused to cooperate with the war effort was brutal. One hundred and forty two received life sentences. Seventeen were sentenced to death. Hundreds had sentences exceeding 20 years. No one was executed, but at least 17 died in jail from abusive treatment, including torture.

Some church leaders worked very hard to ensure that conscientious objectors would not receive such harsh treatment in the future. The draft law passed in 1940 provided non-military alternative service for conscientious objectors. This was the first time in history such a law had been passed by a government, and under the new law conscientious objectors would live in CPS camps and do conservation work, later expanding into mental health, medical experimentation, and other work of “national importance.”

# May 14 Celebration

*continued from pg. 1*

McNeil, and supporters of the Center.

The event was hosted by Sally Hill Cooper in her apartment in Arlington, Virginia, that gave guests views of Washington, D.C.

McNeil reflected on her time at the Center, especially with her campaign stating “We are all conscientious objectors.” She recalled many happy moments, and also some difficult times, especially those calls that came to the Center from members of the military pleading for help. She was then presented with gifts of appreciation from board members and others, including a coffee mug from the Episcopal Peace Fellowship that says, “Peace is the Church’s business,” a children’s peace book, and a “challenge coin” from board chair Dallas Wisehaupt; the coin is an award of service and was the only one Wisehaupt received from his time in the Army.

The night also allowed for the formal welcoming of Santelli as the incoming executive director. Santelli introduced herself and her background, saying she is anticipating taking the Center into the future. McNeil reminded everyone that Santelli needs their continued support because the work of the Center does not stop with her departure.

Music for the night was provided by board vice chair Taj Johnson and Artists Against War, a non-profit group of musicians he formed to fundraise for the Center and help soldiers who say no to war.



Top right: Incoming executive director Maria Santelli and outgoing executive director J.E. McNeil. Middle right: Alicia Zetina, left, and Evelyn Galvin, center, chat with hostess Sally Hill Cooper. Bottom right: McNeil with her son and former staff member, Russell Ricks. Left: Former CCW board member James Feldman and wife Sharon Sigal. *Photos by Russell Ricks and Bill Galvin*

## “Celebrate Our Journey, Chart Our Future”

### In Honor of Outgoing Director J.E. McNeil and Incoming Director Maria Santelli

#### Sponsors

#### ***Ambassadors for Conscience (contribution of \$1,000 or more):***

Pat Arnold, Sally Hill Cooper, Roger & Mary Lou Farmer, Jerome Huebner, Frederick Lewis, Dan Mach, Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), B Wardlaw, Dallas Wisehaupt & Jennifer Tripp

#### ***Advocates for Conscience (contribution of \$500 or more):***

Jean & Christopher Gilson, Taj Johnson, Barry Lynn, Charley Maresca, Frances C. Nyce, Will & Marilyn White, Zephyr Williams, L. William Yolton & Diane Engster, Zion Mennonite Church (Archbold, Ohio)

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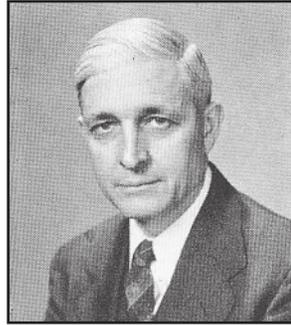
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# A CO Memory

## Like Father, Like Son: the Templins' CO Stories

Ralph T. Templin

In 1917 and 1942, Ralph Templin was exempt from the draft because of his ministerial status. In both cases, however, he repudiated the unasked-for and unwelcome favored status—in 1917 by enlisting in the Air Force; in 1942 by refusing to register.



In World War I Templin enlisted because of a sincere conviction that the war was the only way democracy might be saved. In 1942, with 25 more years of study and experience, he refused to register out of a sincere conviction that war is not the way to save democracy or anything else worth saving.

Templin spent many years as a Methodist educational missionary to India before World War II. When the war broke out, a number of missionaries, including four Methodists, asserted that the repudiation of empire was “the only right conclusion of the present struggle, if the claim to end aggression is not itself false.” No action or protest was made by the Government of India against them, but the U.S. mission board recalled the men involved.

In India, Templin became convinced that “no world peace can ever be built upon the right of strong nations to continue the exploitation of the undeveloped portions of the world at will, or force any kind of ‘protection,’ so-called, upon unwilling peoples.”

Admitting the failure of the Church to show the world a different course, he added: “If the Church had chosen the course to ‘stand up, speak out, and bravely, in God’s name,’ instead of here and there groups or isolated individuals, there could have been no question about the way the world would have taken. In this sense, the world stumbles in darkness because the eye of the Church was blind, because of the Church’s weak and cowardly conformity to a pattern of un-Christlike greed and the violence, which is only its overt form. There can be no greater service to God and country than to keep conscience sensitive and make it outspoken against the whole structure of man’s violence . . . I, therefore, choose . . . the way of my faith and the way of freedom for all men; and this way [is the] repudiation of war itself, of this war in particular, and of its totalitarian enactment, universal conscription.

“I cannot understand war as even a bad method of settling anything. I see it as the final outward form of real inner violence . . . I oppose it with the only force that can end it, non-violence . . .”

Concluding his statement, he referred to his enlistment in the last war and added: “The same sincerity which took me into war then takes me out of it now on behalf of the same cause. This, I believe, is the ‘more excellent way’ which Christ revealed. I make my protest against this violence which seeks to destroy my faith and the world it hopes to build.”

*Taken from* *Conscripts of Conscience*, published by *The Fellowship of Reconciliation*, September 1942

Lawrence Templin

World War II broke out in 1939 and Lawrence Templin was finishing high school in India. Since India was a colony in the British Empire at that time, the Viceroy simply declared India at war.

Templin was asked in school if he would join the fight should the U.S. enter the war. “With great hesitation and soul searching I said that as a pacifist I would not fight in any war, no matter how just. I remember being very near to tears, feeling singled out with a few other pacifists.”

In school in India he had to pay attention to world affairs, and he realized the threat Hitler was in Europe and was aware of Japanese cruelties in China. But, “[i]t seemed logical to me to always distinguish sharply between the militarist groups in every nation and the people they were not so much benignly protecting as misleading into war.”

By December 1941, Templin was at Bethel College in Kansas. Having returned to the U.S. in late 1939, he was aware of hostilities between Japan and the U.S. then and wasn’t surprised by the attack on Pearl Harbor.

1942 saw Templin facing the draft. “I was not advocating non-registration,” he said. “At the time I had thought I would declare myself a conscientious objector and accept service in a Civilian Public Service [CPS] camp like most Mennonites.”

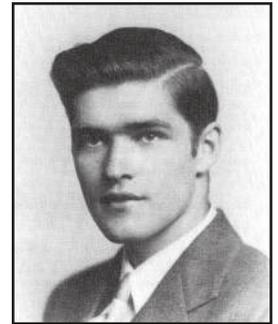
As a Methodist, Templin felt though he didn’t have the theological peace heritage of the Mennonites or Quakers, so he credits his father Ralph with instilling a nonviolent conscience in him. In deciding whether or not to join CPS, he saw that at the time they were restricted to forestry jobs. “That seemed to be pretty far away from helping out [nonviolently] in the worldwide struggle against fascism and violence and imperialism.”

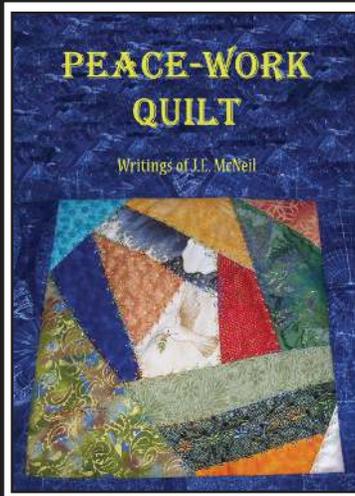
In the light of the fact of poor CPS options at the time, “I decided finally to refuse to register for the draft as my personal protest against this homegrown streak of fascism. It took the court system only a month to indict and sentence me to three years.”

During those years, Templin spent time in the Federal Detention Headquarters in Manhattan, the Federal Correctional Institution at Danbury, Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City, Mill Point prison camp in West Virginia, a camp for juvenile delinquents in Virginia, and the penitentiary at Lewisburg, Pennsylvania.

Reflecting on his time as a CO in jail, Templin said, “My life had changed suddenly and permanently not so much because of what the war did to me, but because of what I did to myself as a result of thinking about the war and conscription and committing myself wholly to what I believed.”

*Summarized from “How the War Changed My Life” in A Few Small Candles: War Resisters of World War II Tell Their Stories by Larry and Lenna Mae Gara, 1999*





## Peace-Work Quilt

Writings by J.E. McNeil

publication date:  
July 1, 2011

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## What is FEAT? Helping Those Who Refuse to Register

David Thompson, FEAT Administrator

The Fund for Education and Training (FEAT) has been providing loans to people of conscience since 1985. The federal government, along with most states, impose penalties upon young men who for reasons of conscience decide not to register with the Selective Service System (SSS).

Among the penalties they are subjected to is the denial of access to federal loans for higher education and job training programs.

FEAT offers supplementary loans to individual applicants in an attempt to provide opportunity for rights of conscience by lessening the economic pressure placed on those individuals.

Currently there are five active loan participants who are either

in school or in the process of repaying their loans.

The FEAT program is administered and managed by the Center on Conscience & War, and all donations to FEAT go directly to the loan program for use in making loans.

Sympathetic organizations and individuals are urged to take action to endorse the purposes of FEAT, to provide local support, to encourage their constituents to contribute to the fund, and to identify persons who could benefit from the FEAT loan program.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:  
[HTTP://CENTERONCONSCIENCE.ORG/](http://CENTERONCONSCIENCE.ORG/)



### Counter Recruitment Efforts

Bill Galvin speaks to students at C.H.O.I.C.E. Academy High School in Washington, D.C. on May 25. He spoke on behalf of the Committee on High Schools, Options, & Information on Careers, Education, & Self-Improvement (C.H.O.I.C.E.S.), a group dedicated to informing youth on alternatives to military service, including jobs, apprenticeships, internships, volunteer opportunities, and funding for college/university. *Photo by Jake Short*



### Ecumenical Advocacy Days 2011

J.E. McNeil, standing, speaks on issues concerning women and the military at Ecumenical Advocacy Days, March 27. Joining her at the workshop were, seated from left, COs Dr. Beverly Reader and India Drew, and Dr. Rita Nakashima Brock, founding Director of Faith Voices for the Common Good. *Photo by Bill Galvin*



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## *From the Desk of the Executive Director*

It's hard writing my final words to you as the Executive Director of the Center on Conscience & War. I have tried several times and failed. I had planned to write an elaborate metaphor based on the story of the old man who planted olive trees for those who were to come after him, just as someone had planted olive trees for him. I wanted to recognize the work of those who led the Center before me starting in 1940 and to recommend support for Maria Santelli who comes now in my place. I wanted to talk about the people I met, the stories I heard (and told) and the friends I made.

But the words came out stilted and forced. I am reluctant, I guess.

So instead I will say that nearly 12 years ago I felt called by God to accept this position. It was offered to me within a few weeks of when I became an absolute conscientious objector. As I have written and told before, I had, through gradual stages, come to reject the Vietnam War, to recognize war was always evil but sometimes expedient, and finally to conclude that war was never a necessary evil with practical results. When I reached the last conclusion, I was offered this job.

Two years ago, in a moment of crystal clarity, I felt led to say to my board that it was time for me to move on. I felt the Center needed new leadership to keep it vibrant and I was sure I had a new path ahead of me. As dream jobs became open in the next year and a half, I felt especially sure that the Way was opening for me. As I failed to obtain any of those jobs, I had my moments of

doubt about where I was headed.

I am still waiting for the right thing for me. I have been accepted into Eastern Mennonite University's Center for Justice & Peace-building's program for a Masters in Conflict Transformation for now. But I expect at some point in the future to be just as clear about what I am called to do next as I was 12 and 2 years ago.

I never even once doubted that my choice to leave was the right thing for the Center. I was reassured as the board stepped up in a way it had not before. As I got to know Maria better and could see her leadership strengths, I knew this was the right thing for the Center. So, even though I could have done this work for another 10 years, leaving to make space for the new was the right thing to do.

So dear friends, I still lack the words to say what is in my heart besides thank you for the wonderful opportunity I have had to serve you and the Center. I leave you in the good hands of Maria, the board, and the staff.

For the last time:

Yours for Peace and Justice,

J.E. McNeil

